14.48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at forty eight minutes

past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri N.S.V. Chitthan.

Title: Need to construct a new bridge near Peranai Regulator to provide connectivity of Nilokkottai and Usilampatti taluks of Madurai and Dindigul districts in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Sir, the Peranai Head Works was

constructed in the year 1892 down below the Periyar Dam across the River Vaigai at a distance of 90 kilometers. This regulator has been constructed across the River Vaigai with a view to diverting the water flow in Periyar Main Canal from Vaigai River to irrigate an ayacut of 1,68,852 acres in Dindigul, Madurai and Sivaganga districts.

The bridge adjacent to regulator arrangements connects both Nilakkottai taluk and Usilampatti taluks of Madurai and Dindigul districts. Both the taluks are very backward taluks in composite Madurai district. Since the bridge adjacent to regulator is 112 years old, it has been closed for traffic. Everyday, the people in and around Nilakkottai taluk and Usilampatti taluk find it very difficult to carry on their socio-economic activities due to the closure of this regulator-cum-bridge.

It is quite essential to construct a new bridge just nearby to Peranai regulator involving least land acquisition and other formalities. The width of river is approximately 300 metres. The approximate cost required for construction of new bridge would be from Rs. 6 crores to Rs. 6.5 crores. If the new bridge is constructed, it will save 30 kilometres for the road traffic which leads to southern part of Tamil Nadu besides saving time.

I request the Union Government to take up the work on priority and also sanction adequate funds for this purpose.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai Barad − Not present.